

AUGUST 24, 1964

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UPI-92

(VIET NAM--REACTION)

WASHINGTON--THE STATE DEPARTMENT TODAY DEPLORED STUDENT RIOTS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH VIET NAM, DECLARING THAT THEY HAMPERED PROSECUTION OF THE WAR AGAINST COMMUNIST GUERRILLAS.

A STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN, ROBERT J. MCCLOSKEY, DECLINED HOWEVER TO SAY WHETHER THE U. S. FELT THE OUTBREAKS WERE COMMUNIST INSPIRED.

MCCLOSKEY SAID IT WAS "TOO EARLY" TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE "MOTIVATIONS" BEHIND THE STUDENT RIOTS BECAUSE THE SITUATION WAS "NOT CLEAR AT THIS TIME." FOR THAT REASON, HE ADDED, HE DID NOT WANT "TO CATEGORIZE THEM IN ANY WAY."

WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON A PAPER PREPARED BY A MEMBER OF THE CIA'S BOARD OF ESTIMATES, WILLARD MATTHIAS, IN WHICH SERIOUS DOUBT WAS EXPRESSED ABOUT THE ABILITY TO BEAT THE COMMUNIST IN VIET NAM AND IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO HAVE "SOME KIND OF NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT BASED UPON NEUTRALIZATION," MCCLOSKEY SAID:

"STUDIES AND ANALYSES OF THIS KIND ARE FREQUENTLY WRITTEN WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT. SUCH A PAPER IS NOT NOR DOES IT PURPORT TO BE A STATEMENT ON POLICY ON ANY OF THE SUBJECTS WHICH IT DISCUSSES."

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MCCLOSKEY SAID THE CIA DOCUMENT HAD NEVER EVEN BEEN DISCUSSED BY "THE U. S. INTELLIGENCE BOARD, THE VIET NAM TASK FORCE NOR ANY PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE OR DEFENSE."

WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT OF PRESIDENT NGUYEN KHANH, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN SAID THAT "THE UNITED GOVERNMENT FULLY RECOGNIZES THE NEED FOR NATIONAL UNITY IN SOUTH VIET NAM AND IS, THEREFORE, SUPPORTING THE KHANH GOVERNMENT AS THE BEST MEANS OF BUILDING SUCH UNITY AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE WAR EFFORT IS BEING PROSECUTED. OBVIOUSLY, ANYTHING OF A DIVISIVE NATURE IS NEITHER IN THE INTEREST OF THE VIET NAMESE GOVERNMENT NOR ITS PEOPLE."

WHEN ASKED TO STATE EXACTLY WHAT WAS U.S. "POLICY" TOWARD A "NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT" IN VIET NAM, THE STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN REFERRED REPORTERS TO PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S STATEMENT EARLY THIS MONTH AT THE TIME HE ASKED AND RECEIVED A STRONG CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION BACKING UP ANY MILITARY ACTION HE MIGHT DECIDE NECESSARY IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. JOHNSON ASKED FOR AND WAS GIVEN AUTHORITY TO TAKE "ALL NECESSARY ACTION TO PROTECT OUR ARMED FORCES AND TO ASSIST NATIONS COVERED BY THE SEATO (SOUTHEAST ASIA TREATY ORGANIZATION) TREATY."

JOHNSON ASSURED CONGRESS THAT GIVEN THIS AUTHORITY, HIS ADMINISTRATION NEVERTHELESS WOULD "CONTINUE READILY TO EXPLORE ANY AVENUES OF POLITICAL SOLUTION THAT WILL EFFECTIVELY GUARANTEE THE REMOVAL OF COMMUNIST SUBVERSION AND THE PRESERVATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE NATIONS OF THE AREA." HE WARNED AGAINST RELATING THAT STATEMENT TO THE SECTION ON VIET NAM IN THE CIA PAPER, WHICH MADE NO MENTION OF GUARANTEES AGAINST COMMUNIST SUBVERSION.

ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS WERE OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED LESS THE CIA STUDY PAPER BECOME A POLITICAL FOOTBALL IN THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN.

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